

**Mount Ascutney Regional  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2022**

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held via Zoom at 6:00 pm.

**Attendance**

TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Diane Foulds, Windsor; Eric and Barbara Bye, at-large

Others present: Otis Munroe, MARC; Christine Howe, SEVT

Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:08 pm.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kristi welcomed all present members of the TAC.

**2. Changes to the Agenda**

The originally scheduled presenters were unable to attend. Both work for Green Mountain Power and had to respond to a winter storm. In the place of the original agenda, it was decided to discuss the beginning of the current legislative session and the Windsor microtransit pilot.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*Arne Jonynas made a motion to approve the November 30<sup>th</sup> minutes. Second by Diane Foulds. The motion passed unanimously.*

**4. Updates and Announcements**

Otis shared information on the Better Connections Program, which was accepting applications, and encouraged interested towns to apply. West Windsor is applying to the Program this year.

Otis updated the TAC on upcoming VTrans reporting that the RPC is working with towns to complete.

Otis also gave a brief overview of the changes that have come with the newly released update to the Municipal Roads General Permit. There have been changes to required practices, reporting deadlines and formats, and permit exemptions. This is a potential future TAC topic. Arne asked about the process that was used to update the permit.

Kristi asked about filling the vacancy on the TAC left by Tom Kenyon's passing. Otis mentioned that the RPC usually reaches out to towns after Town Meeting to fill any vacancies or address irregular attendance.

**5. Legislative Update**

Kristi gave his impressions of the beginning of the current legislative session and some draft bills he's keeping an eye on. Arne asked Kristi if the clean heat standard would be returning this session. Kristi said an altered version is being put forward with changes designed to address criticisms of the last iteration. Diane asked Kristi about Advanced Clean Cars. It would enact requirements that a certain portion of new vehicles sold in VT by a certain date would need to be electric. Kristi also gave an overview of the current draft of the paid family leave bill.

**6 Update on Windsor Microtransit Pilot**

Christine gave an update on the first week of service for the Windsor microtransit pilot. She provided an overview of what microtransit is and the particulars of the Windsor service including how to book a ride and service hours and area.

Christine shared how the Windsor pilot is different from the prior pilot in Montpelier because Windsor is an entirely new service and not replacing a preexisting fixed route. There is hope the Windsor pilot will provide a model for transit in more rural areas of the state.

The winter weather impacted ridership for the launch of the service but word is getting out. Riders have been excited that there are no eligibility requirements, especially those who are used to Medicaid and other forms of demand-response service. Another benefit is that the vehicles are ADA accessible. Mailers just went out this week to every address in town.

Diane asked if anything had been put out on Front Porch Forum yet. Christine will check with Randy. Arne asked for clarification on the service area.

## **7. Future agenda items & next meeting date**

a. Next meeting: February 22, 2022.

b. Topic: Tiana Smith from Green Mountain Power (GMP) on GMP's electric vehicle programs. Diane suggested the VTrans carbon reduction strategy as a future TAC topic. Christine offered to give periodic updates on the microtransit pilot and Kristi agreed to provide legislative updates.

## **9. Adjourn**

*Sharon Bixby made a motion to adjourn. Second by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.*